

Geranium Plant Named 'Fisrodark'

Genus and species of the plant claimed:

Hybrid *Pelargonium zonale* L'Héritier

Variety denomination:

5 'Fisrodark'

Background of the Invention

The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of geranium, botanically known as *Pelargonium zonale*, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Fisrodark'.

10 'Fisrodark' is a product of a planned breeding program which had the objective of creating new zonal geranium cultivars with cultivars with semi-double flowers, relatively vigorous, but well-branched growth habit, good outdoor performance, and in various flower colors.

'Fisrodark' was originated from a hybridization made by the inventor,
15 Angelika Utecht, in a controlled breeding program in Hillscheid, Germany, in 1998.

The female parent was the patented variety 'Americana Dark Red' (U.S. Plant Patent no. 9,307), having deep-red semi-double flowers, medium green foliage, and vigorous growth. The male parent of 'Fisrodark' was the variety 'Fisfire' (U.S. Plant Patent no. 12,489), and characterized by scarlet, semi-double flowers, leaves with
20 strong zonation, and about medium sized plant habit.

'Fisrodark' was selected as one flowering plant within the progeny of the stated cross by Angelika Utecht in 1999 in a controlled environment in Moncarapacho, Portugal.

The first act of asexual reproduction of 'Fisrodark' was accomplished when
25 vegetative cuttings were taken from the initial selection in the fall of 1999 in a

controlled environment in Moncarapacho, Portugal, by, or under the supervision of,
Angelika Utecht.

Horticultural examination of plants grown from cuttings of the plant initiated
in May 2000 in Hillscheid, Federal Republic of Germany, and continuing thereafter,
5 has demonstrated that the combination of characteristics as herein disclosed for
'Fisrodark' are firmly fixed and are retained through successive generations of
asexual reproduction. 'Fisrodark' has not been observed under all possible
environmental conditions. The phenotype may vary significantly with variations in
environment such as temperature, light intensity and day length.

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Brief Summary of the Invention

The following observations, measurements, and comparisons describe plants
grown in Hillscheid, Germany, under greenhouse conditions which approximate those
generally used in commercial practice.

15 The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be
basic characteristics of 'Fisrodark' in combination distinguish this geranium as a new
and distinct cultivar :

1. Deep red, semi-double, round flowers;
2. Numerous, medium-sized to large inflorescences, thin peduncles;
- 20 3. Medium-green foliage with weak zonation;
4. Vigorous growth, tall plant and well-branched plant habit; and
5. About mid season spring flowering response.

Of the many commercial cultivars known to the present inventor, the most
similar in comparison to 'Fisrodark' is the variety 'Fip 553' (U.S. Plant Patent no.
25 13,961), and the parental variety 'Americana Dark Red'. In comparison to 'Fip 533',

10	Brief Description of the Drawing
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15 Detailed Botanical Description

In the following description color references are made to the Royal
20 Horticultural Society Color Chart. The color values were determined indoors from
plants growing in a green-house in May, 2003, in Hillscheid, Germany.

25 Average diameter: 122 mm

- Average depth: 65 mm
- Peduncle: 245 mm in length, relatively thin, often only 2-3 mm in diameter
- Peduncle color: Light green, RHS 143 C, outdoors a slight tinge of brown may occur, RHS 147 B
- 5 Pedicel: 38 mm in length
- Pedicel color: Lower part green, RHS N144A, upper part reddish-brown, RHS 181 A
- Number of flowers per umbel: About 25-40
- 10 Corolla:
- Average diameter: 57 mm
- Form: Semi-double
- Shape: Round , open, cup-shape
- Number of petals: 7-9
- 15 Number of petaloids: Typically none
- Shape of petals: Obovate, base acute or attenuate, upper end is rounded, margin is entire
- Size of petals Upper petals: 25-27 mm long, 21-23 mm wide;
lower petals: 22-23 mm long, 23-24 mm wide
- 20 Color (general tonality from a distance of three meters): Brilliant deep red, uniform
- Color of upper petals: Mainly RHS 45 A, near the base RHS 44 A
- Markings of upper petals: No markings
- Color of lower petals: RHS 45 A
- 25 Markings of lower petals: Absent

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Spring flowering response period : In Hillscheid, Germany, in 2001, plants
had on average 0.4 flowers opened 8 weeks after
5 planting of rooted cuttings

Outdoor flower production : Continuously and rich flowering, the flower
count in 2003 in Hillscheid, Germany, indicated
about 3-3.5 inflorescence per plant in mid May.

10 Durability: Basically good stability of flower color, however, flowers tend to being
scorched by intense sun light, which is typical for this color group,
good rain resistance

15 Lastingness of the individual flower: About 7-8 days at 18°C, about 13-15
days for the umbel

Fragrance: None

20 PLANT

Foliage:

Shape: Kidney-shaped, with cordate base, with the gap between the
lowest lobes somewhat open, apex rounded with very weak
lobes

25 Margin: Bi-crenate, relatively weak

Texture: Upper surface smooth

Size of leaf : 117 mm wide, 71 mm long

Color of upper surface: Medium green, approximately RHS 137 C

Color: Weak, brown, about RHS 166 A,

5 Color of lower surface: Between RHS 137 D and 139 C

Petioles: 60-90 mm long, 3 mm diameter, light green in color, between
RHS 137 D and 143 A

General appearance and form:

10 Stem color: Grass-green, RHS 143 B

Internode length: 35-40 mm

Branching pattern: 7 branches on average

Size of plants: 25.6 cm tall, 39.8 cm wide, (11-week-old plants, as
described, measured from the top of the soil (base of the
15 main stem) to the surface of the foliage canopy, without
inflorescences